



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

NEWS RELEASE

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ELECTRONICS COMPANY PAYS FINES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS

City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit Prosecutes Case

San Diego, CA: Toppan Electronics, one of the world's largest manufacturers of printed wiring boards, was fined \$278,000 for illegal disposal of hazardous wastes and for other environmental violations involving printed wiring (circuit) boards manufactured at its San Diego facility. The company, which has now closed, operated its industrial facility on Miramar Road in San Diego without safely managing its hazardous wastes. "This prosecution sends a message to all businesses handling hazardous materials," said City Attorney Casey Gwinn. "Businesses, including those that are closing, must follow the environmental laws designed to protect the public from health hazards or face the consequences."

The case was prosecuted by Steven Gold, a Deputy City Attorney in the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit. According to Deputy City Attorney Gold, the facility used large quantities of toxic and corrosive chemicals during the years they operated the facility to manufacture printed wiring boards. These chemicals were stored onsite and hazardous wastes from the industrial processes were treated onsite. A hazardous materials inspection conducted on November 13, 2001 by the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health discovered significant violations of the hazardous waste regulations. The violations included disposing of hazardous wastes to the ground; failing to properly manage and label containers of hazardous waste; using leaking, deteriorated tank systems to accumulate and treat hazardous waste onsite; and failing to maintain air pollution control equipment.

The company fully cooperated with the involved agencies, and has corrected the violations observed in November 2001 by the County of San Diego inspectors. Toppan officials are currently working with state and local environmental agencies to assess the extent of the ground contamination and are required as part of the settlement to fully clean their former site. The case was jointly investigated by the City Attorney's Office, County of San Diego's Hazardous Materials Division of the Department of Environmental Health and the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District. ###



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